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CLAIMS

1. An Automatic Performance Calibration (APC) technique comprising monitoring transactional performance of a device and re-calibrating the device automatically as required  
5 in order to achieve a pre-determined performance level.
2. A technique according to Claim 1, wherein the technique uses a method comprising the steps of:
  - (a) generating a score each time a match is made between data input using a reader and  
10 representative of a biometric characteristic and stored data;
  - (b) calculating an average value of the scores for a plurality of matches;
  - (c) comparing the calculated average value with a predetermined performance threshold;  
and
  - (d) adjusting the calibration of the reader in response to the result of the comparison in step  
15 (c).
3. A technique according to Claim 2, wherein the average score is calculated for a batch of a predetermined number of matches.
- 20 4. A technique according to any of the preceding claims, wherein a plurality of devices are provided.
5. A technique according to Claim 4, wherein a change in threshold value is implemented centrally and effects all or a selection of the reader devices.

6. A technique according to Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein the devices are all of the same type.
- 5 7. A technique according to Claim 4 or Claim 5, wherein the devices are of a plurality of different types.
8. A technique substantially as hereinbefore described with reference to the accompanying drawings.
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9. An identification system using the technique claimed in any one of the preceding claims.